

and further in view of Aoki et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,304,212, (hereinafter "Aoki"). Claims 3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nimura in view of Hirono, U.S. Patent No. 6,246,958 (hereinafter "Hirono"). Claims 12, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Okude, in view of Hirono. Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 17 is allowable.

With regard to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a), Applicant respectfully asserts that the applied references, whether taken separately or in combination with each other, do not teach or suggest the invention currently recited in the pending claims. Accordingly, these rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1

Independent claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nimura. Applicant respectfully submits that the Nimura reference does not teach or suggest the claimed navigation system combination including at least "a plurality of memory devices each capable of reading out map data which is recorded therein" and "a map data reading device for accessing one of the memory devices, which is selected in accordance with a predetermined condition".

Nimura is directed to a map indication device and navigation device that recognizes the shapes of buildings or facilities and uses this information to allegedly identify designations of destinations quickly and easily. The display of a house map and a road map is changed over depending upon predetermined conditions.

Col. 5, lines 51-58 explain that two storage means are provided in the Nimura arrangement. The first is an “external data storage means” for storing external data of buildings such as the shapes of the buildings. The second is “internal data storage means” for storing internal data, such as addresses, names and telephone numbers of the buildings. Applicants respectfully submit that both the “external data storage means” and the “internal data storage means” are provided within a single data storage unit 37 for storing various data such as map data, intersection data and road data. When the car has reached a predetermined radius from a registered destination, the map indicated on the user’s display 33 automatically switches from the road map to a house map.

As discussed at least at pages 3-4 of the instant specification, the navigation system arrangement of the instant invention provides a plurality of memory devices, each of which stores map data and a map data reading device which reads out the stored map data from one or all of the memory devices. The navigation system can access the optimum memory device depending on a “predetermined condition”, as recited in claim 1, from among the plurality of memory devices to ensure proper navigation operation. See also page 34, line 15- page 35, line 3; and page 40, line 25 to page 41, line 3.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the arrangement recited in independent claim 1 differs from the arrangement in Nimura at least with regard to the number of memory devices provided that are capable of reading out map data which is recorded within the memory device in the manner discussed in the instant application and recited in the claims. Although Nimura discloses storage means for both external data and internal data as discussed above, both the external data and the internal data are stored within one data storage unit 37 in Nimura, as

discussed above and as described at col. 57, lines 4-7 of Nimura. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not be possible to attain the advantageous results of the instant application's arrangement using the arrangement disclosed by Nimura.

Independent claim 9

Independent claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Okude. Applicant respectfully submits that Okude does not teach or suggest the claimed navigation system combination including at least “a first memory device capable of reading out map data from a record medium in which the map data is recorded,” “a second memory device of non-volatile type, capable of reading out the map data therefrom and writing the map data thereinto,” and “a map data reading device for selecting one of said first and second memory devices in accordance with a predetermined condition, accessing the selected one of said first and second memory devices and reading out the map data required for the navigation operation therefrom.”

Okude is directed to a map displaying method and apparatus and navigation system having the map displaying apparatus. The method of Okude involves utilizing three dimensional map data including information indicating horizontal locations of map constituent elements such as topographical features, roads, buildings, and information indicating heights or elevations or altitudes of some of the map constituent elements. Thus, Okude appears to be similar to Nimura in that it requires various types of memory means in order to store and compare these different types of information, that go well beyond including only road map data.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that while Okude discloses a map database unit 1-3 and a RAM 2-2 storing map data, there is no description in Okude that both of these memory devices are utilized in the manner recited in the instant claims. Moreover, while Okude does not

clearly disclose for what function RAM 2-2 is utilized, Applicant respectfully submits that RAM 2-2 is likely used for only temporarily storing map data. Accordingly, Okude provides disclosure of only one memory device, the map database unit 1-3, used for storing map data along the lines of a memory device as discussed in the instant application. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Okude does not provide first and second memory devices, as recited in at least independent claim 9 of the instant application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not be possible to attain the advantageous results of the instant application's arrangement using the arrangement disclosed by Okude.

In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the applied references, whether taken separately, or in any combination with each other, fail to teach or suggest at least the particularly-recited features of independent claims 1 and 9. Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, independent claims 1 and 9 are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7 are dependent on independent claim 1 and claims 10-16 are dependent on independent claim 9. These dependent claims are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims. Accordingly Applicants respectfully submit that the remaining rejections of dependent claims 2-7 and 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are also traversed and these dependent claims are allowable at least for the same reasons as their respective independent claims because each of the applied secondary references fail to cure the deficiencies of the primary references.

The Examiner is thanked for his indication that claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and that claim 17 is allowed. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that